

## COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE December 16, 2003

## COUNTY OFFERS DEBRIS REMOVAL FOR FIRE VICTIMS Purpose is to Reduce Threat to Public Health and Safety

Property owners in burned areas of San Diego County can now have debris removed through a new program. The Board of Supervisors approved the plan that will help protect the public health and safety of the drinking water while also assisting fire victims.

Locations draining directly into drinking water reservoirs will receive first priority. The County Board of Supervisors approved the program Tuesday and expects possible funding sources to include private insurance, FEMA and State OES.

County officials will mail instructions, forms and information to each property owner affected by recent fires beginning next week. While debris removal is mandatory, participation in the program is optional and owners may hire their own debris removal contractors. Owners who want to participate should submit signed right-of-entry forms that will be included in the mailings. Insured property owners should include insurance information. This debris removal program is a separate program from the County's curbside bin program that began in November.

Maps of the first five priority areas are available on the County Department of Public Works web site-http://www.sdcdpw.org/map.

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